

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 PPT-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 PC-10

COME-00 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00

PER-05 SY-10 SCCT-02 /220 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RVKEELEY:JR

APPROVED BY AF - CGROSS

SCA/SCS -J. LIVIORNESE

SCA/PPT - A.R. MCKAY

AF/E:WBCOOTE

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P 282335Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 040918

INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: TRAVEL BY AMCITS TO ETHIOPIA

1. IN THE WAKE OF A REBELLION BY ELEMENTS OF THE
ETHIOPIAN ARMED FORCES, THE PRIME MINISTER AND ENTIRE
CABINET RESIGNED ON FEBRUARY 27. THE FOLLOWING DAY
THE EMPEROR APPOINTED ENDALKATCHEW MAKONNEN AS PRIME
MINISTER AND INSTRUCTED HIM TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. A
NEW DEFENSE MINISTER AND ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF
WERE ALSO APPOINTED. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER THESE
APPOINTEES WILL BE FOUND ACCEPTABLE BY THE DISSIDENT
MILITARY ELEMENTS, AND WHETHER THE REBELLION WILL END
SOON, DESPITE THE EMPEROR'S EFFORTS TO PLACATE THE
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DISSIDENTS' BY AGREEING TO SOME OF THEIR DEMANDS.

2. THE POLITICAL/SECURITY SITUATION IN ADDIS ABABA AND THROUGHOUT ETHIOPIA IS STILL HIGHLY FLUID AND VOLATILE. MILITARY ELEMENTS IN THE CAPITAL HAVE NOW APPARENTLY JOINED THE DISSIDENTS AND APPEAR TO BE IN THE PROCESS OF TAKING CONTROL OF MOST OF THE CITY. AN EVENING CURFEW HAS BEEN DECLARED FOR FEBRUARY 28. THUS FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO VIOLENCE OR BLOODSHED. BUT IN VIEW OF THE TENSION PREVAILING IN THE CAPITAL AND COUNTRY AS A WHOLE, AND THE STILL UNCERTAIN OUTCOME OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS, EMBASSY ADDIS ABABA HAS RECOMMENDED THAT TOURISTS AVOID TRAVEL TO ADDIS FOR THE PRESENT.

3. IN VIEW OF THE UNCERTAIN EVOLUTION OF THE SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA, POENTIAL AMCIT TRAVELLERS TO THAT COUNTRY WHO INQUIRE AS TO CONDITIONS THERE SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT IF THEY DO NOT HAVE PRESSING BUSINESS THERE THEY SHOULD DEFER THEIR TRAVEL UNTIL THE SITUATION CLARIFIES. CASEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CITIZEN PROTECTION, POLITICAL SITUATION, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE040918
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RVKEELEY:JR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974021/aaaaaavd.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVEL BY AMCITS TO ETHIOPIA
TAGS: PINS, ET, US
To: ALL POSTS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005